

**I am writing in support of Raised Bill No. 989, An Act Concerning the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program.**

**My name is Laurie Browne and I am the Respite Care Manager at the North Central Area Agency on Aging. The North Central Area Agency on Aging is a private non-profit agency whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for older adults in the north central region by providing them with access to cost effective services.**

**The Respite care Program offers up to \$3,500 for caregivers who are caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease or some type of dementia to allow the caregiver some respite, or some relief from caregiving. Adult day care and Home Health aide services are the most requested services among caregivers who apply for this program. Most clients are awarded the full \$3,500 award and typically spend their full grant within 3 to 5 months. New proposed regulations in this bill to increase the grant size up to \$7,500 after a demonstrated need is presented would help those caregivers in particularly challenging situations to continue to care for their loves ones at home.**

**Caregivers are under immense stress because they have to take care of their loved ones; themselves and sometimes they have kids they have to take care of as well.**

**When I get calls from caregivers who are stressed out, physically tired and are looking for help, they are usually at the end of their ropes. They are grateful for any help that is given. All they want it to be able to continue to take care of their loved ones at home.**

**With the proper support, caregivers are helping to keep their loves ones at home and out of nursing homes. The Respite Care Program has been a vital source of support for caregivers in our region and they rely heavily on the grant to give them some respite a couple of months a year.**

**Thank you very much for your support.**

**Laurie Brown**